AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims</u>

1.   (Currently amended)   An Identity Generator device arranged for generating a user's service indicator for a user to access a number of services offered by a service provider through a network operator where user data for the user are accessible <u>in a user directory system</u>, this user's service indicator being usable between the service provider domain and the network operator domain to unambiguously identify the user at each respective domain, the Identity Generator device comprising:

- means for obtaining a master user's identifier usable to identify the user at the operator's network;

- means for obtaining a service identifier, indicative of services to be accessed at the service provider; and

- means for constructing a user's service indicator that includes the master user's identifier and the service identifier<u>;</u>

<u>wherein the user's service indicator is opaque outside the Identity Generator device, which further comprises:</u>

> <u>a Decomposer component having means for carrying out a reverse generation to obtain a master user's identifier from a given user's service indicator; and</u>

> <u>means for verifying the validity of the given user's service indicator by making use of the master user's identifier as a search key towards the user directory system.</u>

2.   (Previously Presented)   The Identity Generator device of claim 1, wherein the service identifier, indicative of services to be accessed at the service provider, comprises at least one element selected from: a service provider indicator, and a number of service indicators.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The Identity Generator device of claim 1, further comprising:

- means for obtaining at least one element selected from: network operator identifier, auxiliary value, expiry time, and integrity code; and

- means for including the at least one element into the user's service indicator.

4.   (Previously Presented)   The Identity Generator device of claim 1, wherein the master user's identifier is built up as a function of a real user identity.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The Identity Generator device of claim 1, further comprising means for carrying out a symmetric cipher of the user's service indicator using a ciphering key.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The Identity Generator device of claim 5, wherein the ciphering key is unique for all the applicable service providers.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The Identity Generator device of claim 5, wherein the ciphering key is different per each service provider.

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method for generating <u>at an Identity Generator device of a network operator</u> a user's service indicator intended for a user to access a number of services offered by a service provider through a network operator where user data for the user are accessible <u>in a user directory system</u>, this user's service indicator being usable between the service provider domain and the network operator domain to unambiguously identify the user at each respective domain, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a master user's identifier usable to identify the user at the operator's network;

obtaining a service identifier, indicative of services to be accessed at the service provider; and

constructing a user's service indicator that includes the master user's identifier and the service identifier<u>; and</u>

<u>wherein the constructed user's service indicator is opaque outside the Identity Generator device, the method further comprising:</u>

<u>carrying out a reverse generation to obtain the master user's identifier from the given user's service indicator; and</u>

<u>verifying the validity of the given user's service indicator by making use of the master user's identifier as a search key towards the user directory system.</u>

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of obtaining a service identifier includes obtaining at least one element selected from: a service provider indicator, and a number of service indicators.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

obtaining at least one element selected from: network operator identifier, auxiliary value, expiry time, and integrity code ; and

including the at least one element into the user's service indicator.

17.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 14, wherein the step of obtaining a master user's identifier includes a step of applying a function to a real user identity.

18.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 14, further comprising carrying out a symmetric cipher of the user's service indicator using a ciphering key.

19.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 18, wherein the ciphering key is unique for all the applicable service providers.

20.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 18, wherein the ciphering key is different per each service provider.

21.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 20, further comprising determining a service provider issuing a communication based on a given user's service indicator.

22.   (Canceled)   ~~The method of claim 14, further carrying out a reverse generation to obtain the master user's identifier from a given user's service indicator.~~

23.   (Currently amended)   The [[An]] Identity Generator device of claim 1, wherein ~~for generating a user's service indicator for a user to access a number of services offered by a service provider through a network operator where user data for the user are accessible, this user's service indicator being usable between the service provider domain and the network operator domain to unambiguously identify the user at each respective domain,~~ the Identity Generator device ~~comprising:~~
    ~~means for obtaining a master user's identifier usable to identify the user at the operator's network;~~
    ~~means for obtaining a service identifier, indicative of services to be accessed at the service provider; and~~

means for constructing a user's service indicator that includes the master user's identifier and the service identifier, wherein said Identity Generator device is integrated in, or in close cooperation with, [[and]] an entity of an identity provider network where the user data is accessible.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The Identity Generator device of claim 23 [[24]], wherein the entity is a Central Provisioning Entity responsible for provisioning tasks in the operator's network.

26. (Currently amended) The Identity Generator device of claim 23 [[24]], wherein the entity is a User Directory System storing user data.

27. (Currently amended) The Identity Generator device of claim 23 [[24]], wherein the entity is a Border Gateway placed at the border of the operator domain.

28. (Previously Presented) The Identity Generator device of claim 27, wherein the Border Gateway is an entity selected from: an HTTP Proxy, a WAP Gateway, and a Messaging Gateway.

29. (Canceled)

30. (New) The Identity Generator device of claim 1, wherein the means for carrying out a reverse generation in the Decomposer component comprises means for obtaining the service identifier used to generate the given user's service indicator.

31. (New) The Identity Generator device of claim 1, wherein the means for carrying out a reverse generation in the Decomposer component further comprises

means for obtaining at least one element selected from: network operator identifier, and ciphering key used to generate the given user's service indicator.

32.   (New) The Identity Generator device of claim 1, wherein the means for carrying out a reverse generation in the Decomposer component further comprises:

means for obtaining applicable expiry time criteria; and

means for verifying the validity of a given temporary user's service indicator against said expiry time criteria.